

RECEIVED
FSIS DOCKET ROOM

October 28, 1998

98 NOV -5 PM 12:49


USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk
300 12th Street, SW
Room 102 Cotton Annex
Washington DC 20250-3700

17

Re: Docket No. 98-045N

These are my comments submitted to the USDA concerning Food Safety Initiatives, reducing the rate of foodborne illness in particular.

1. **Feedlots** should be outlawed. The intense crowding, filth, unnatural diet, and increased transportation increases stress, lowers immunity and increases the opportunity for transmission of pathogens.
2. Outlaw dehorning, debeaking, castration without anesthesia, taildocking and battery cages. These practices are not only innately cruel, but increase stress and opportunity for invasion of the animal's body by pathogens.
3. Outlaw feeding rendered animals to other animals. This is not only repugnant, forcing naturally herbivorous animals to be cannibals, but increases the opportunity for pathogens to enter the body of the live animals.
4. Outlaw the sale of "downers" for sale for human consumption. These animals should be euthanized, and failure to do so puts the public at risk for infections.
5. Encourage transition towards a vegan/vegetarian diet. Those who produce meat and dairy products should be paid NOT to produce them. This would save our nation money on medical expenses (from stroke, heart attack and cancer), pollution clean-up and drug resistant strains of antibiotics.


Jamey Lee West
435 Christopher Ave. T-2
Gaithersburg, MD. 20879
301-990-0593